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■ **VIDEO:** Daughter documented

Telling Kiesha's story

MARYANNE FIRTH
 InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Childhood is supposed to be a magical time filled with innocence and care-free fun.

see KIESHA | A2

■ **MIXED MARTIAL ARTS:** Province changes stance to allow sanctioned fighting events



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
 Dave Dayboyl, owner and chief instructor of Dayboyl Jiu-Jitsu and Fitness Academy in Port Colborne, helps Alexxis Davis train in file photo. Davis says it is great news the province will finally allow mixed martial arts events.

MMA coming to Ontario

DAVE JOHNSON
 and BERND FRANKE
 InPort News Staff

MIAMI, Fla. — "I think it's awesome!" Dave Dayboyl said when told Ontario is taking steps to allow professional mixed martial arts events in the province.

The owner and chief instructor of Dayboyl Jiu-Jitsu and Fitness Academy in Port Colborne was in Miami training at Robert (Cyborg) Abreu's school and hadn't heard Saturday's announcement until reached by e-mail.

A news release from the province said Ontario would adopt the same rules for professional MMA that are widely used across North America.

see FIGHTING | A2

See Inside:

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Sharing her smile with the world

FROM PAGE A1

But for Kiesha Embrey, childhood has been a time filled with doctors' appointments, hospital visits, surgeries and struggles.

Since her birth in April 2005, Kiesha has been diagnosed with two rare lung diseases, hip dysplasia and glaucoma. She underwent a cornea transplant and is now considered legally blind.

Despite the difficulties the now five-year-old Port Colborne girl has seen in her lifetime, she never forgets how to smile. It's that smile that Kiesha's parents, Tammy and Chris Embrey, hope to share with the world.

Through a special contest created to raise awareness of childhood disabilities, they've put together a video documenting their daughter's life.

The contest, FilmPossible, is facilitated by Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, the largest children's rehabilitation hospital in Canada. Videos are uploaded online at www.filmpossible.com for everyone on the World Wide Web to see.

She visitors can vote for their favourite video once every 14 hours. The top three videos with the most votes by Sept. 15 will become contest finalists with the winner announced on Nov. 30. If Kiesha's story claims the top spot in the contest, the family plans to put the \$5,000 grand prize towards the purchase of specialized equipment to help improve her quality of life.

Due to her condition, Kiesha is unable to stand on her own. With the prize money, the family would be able to ease



Supplied photo

Dave Makin, a member of Hamilton's Iron Riders motorcycle club, presents five-year-old Kiesha Embrey and mother Tammy with one of the group's riding vests, initiating the young Port Colborne girl as an honorary member. The club has shown support for the family that is looking to take top place in the FilmPossible contest, which raises awareness about children with disabilities.

the cost of the supportive tools Kiesha needs to walk freely throughout their home, a ceiling track and a specially designed harness used to build a child with disabilities upright.

"If we win, we'll be one step closer to Kiesha walking," Tammy said with a smile.

The video, which was posted Monday afternoon, has already received a wealth of support.

In only a few short days, nearly 300 votes have been cast in Kiesha's favour. "Though family and friends can certainly be credited for helping with the voting boost, Tammy and Chris are Hamilton's Iron Riders motorcycle club that has made it their mission to help Kiesha succeed.

Club members attended Kiesha's annual poker run in July, Tammy said, and fell in love with the little girl.

Earlier this week, Kiesha was

named an honorary member of the club and was presented with a rider's vest by members Dave Makin and Billy Donald. "They've taken her under their wing," Tammy said, calling the group her daughter's "guardian angels."

"It's overwhelming to see the love they have for her," Tammy encouraged people to watch Kiesha's story, which is filled with hope despite the difficulties the young girl has faced.

"Kiesha's our miracle, our angel. With everything she's fought through, she shouldn't be here. She's overcome obstacles over and over again."

"Every time we turn around there's a new hurdle, a new struggle to overcome, but she does it," Tammy said.

To view an extended version of the video, visit www.youtube.com/search?word=Kiesha's+Story.

FIGHTING

Hosting MMA events in Ontario will help the sport evolve: fighter

FROM PAGE A1

MMA matches are already permitted by provincial athletic commissions in Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Quebec. Municipal athletic commissions in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Prince George, B.C., and in several other communities in British Columbia also sanction events. In the United States, the sport is allowed in all but four of the 50 states.

"As MMA has grown in popularity throughout the world, many cities have reaped the economic rewards of hosting events. A major MMA event in Ontario could attract up to 30,000 fans and generate up to \$6 million in local economic activity — everything from hotel rooms to restaurants and other stores and services," the news release said.

Dayboll agrees and said the move is good for mixed martial arts clubs, martial arts clubs and all the businesses around it.

"The UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) brings in a lot of money for everyone, hotels, restaurants and everything around an event."

He said the move is good for the evolution of the sport and for the growth of fans in general in Ontario.

"We're behind the times in Canada. It's why I'm Miami trained."

Dayboll, whose club will now be affiliated with Abreu's, said mixed martial arts is exploding across the

world. It's huge in Abu Dhabi, where Jiu-Jitsu is taught in public school.

"We have Muslim students coming to us in droves in Buffalo because they want to keep up with their fellow countrymen," said Dayboll, who teaches classes across the border.

In addition to being good news for fans and MMA clubs across the province, the move will be good for fighters such as Port Colborne's Alexis Davis and Andrew Cseh of Welland.

Davis, who trains at Dayboll's club, is the current female champion in the Raging Wolf series in New York state and has to fight outside Canada on a number of occasions.

Her next fight is Saturday, Aug. 28 at Seneca Niagara Casino in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Cseh, who fights out of Modern Vision Mixed Martial Arts at Seaway Mall, is also scheduled to return to the ring on Aug. 28 in a pro bout taking place in Erie, Pa.

"Finally, we'll be the home team. Alexis and Sammy (Pascuzzi, another fighter at Dayboll's) won't have to travel as far to fight. Travel expenses come out of their winnings," Dayboll said.

Cseh, who scored a second-round technical knockout over Mike Brown in Ohio to win his pro debut in Ohio earlier this summer, was slated to hear the news that Ontario will be joining a growing list of jurisdictions that will allow MMA.

Welland's male top male athlete for the past two years

wasn't surprised at the decision, however.

"I knew it was going to happen, sooner or later. The sport keeps growing and I knew it would ultimately grow into Ontario," the 18-year-old Niagara College student said.

Like the fighters who work out of the studio in Port Colborne, Cseh is already looking forward to stepping into the octagon without first having to declare his intentions at the border. He could think of no better venue locally than Welland Arena.

"I think we could sell out the arena in a day. The people of Welland would come out for this type of fighting because it has everything," he said.

Asked if he was worried about people setting up poorly run MMA events, Dayboll said flyby-night promotions won't last very long.

As for the sport's detractors, Dayboll said it has become as safe as possible over the years.

"In boxing if you get knocked down a number of times, you get a standing eight count and can continue fighting. MMA doesn't allow that. If you get knocked down in MMA and aren't intelligently defending yourself that's the fight is over."

Bonfaccio, the owner and chief instructor at Modern Vision, was unavailable for comment as was Davis.

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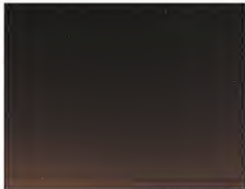
portraits

■ STARGAZING

Catching a glimpse of the Milky Way



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photos
Part of the Milky Way shows up in the night sky over West Lincoln last week. InPort News reporter Dave Johnson was out trying to take photos of the Perseid meteor shower when he captured the Milky Way and a multitude of stars. He reported seeing a number of meteors, some bright and some faint, early in the evening before heavy humidity dulled the skies.



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ourview

Good news for fight fans

Ontario is making the move to allow mixed martial arts events (MMA) in the province by next year.

We think it's great news and are glad the province finally saw the light when it comes to the fastest growing sport in the world. It took a while for provincial officials, including Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty, to realize MMA can create jobs and will have a positive economic impact.

Ontario is a hotbed of mixed martial arts fans, many of whom had to travel outside the province to watch live UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) and other promotions. UFC events in Montreal and Vancouver sold out at no time at all, generating income for both cities and creating economic spin-off. We're sure an event in Toronto, Hamilton or London would sell out in minutes. If a venue large enough could be found in Niagara, it too would sell out. Even a small-scale UFC event with a few thousand people would sell out.

Fighters from across Niagara also had to travel outside the province, making them outsiders with little support as they were fighting. Dave Daybowl, owner and chief instructor of Daybowl Jiu-Jitsu and Fitness Academy in Port Colborne, also runs provincial fighters, like Alexis Davis and Sam Pascuzzi, who train with Daybowl, will have a "home-town" advantage. Davis is champion in the Raging Wolf promotion across the border, a native-run promotion that puts on great events and has great fighters. Fans in Western New York, where the sport is still banned, support Raging Wolf and sellout crowds of more than 2,000 are won by the action. Raging Wolf promotions take place on native land, where the laws allow mixed martial arts.

With the announcement also comes news the province will be doing everything it can to protect fighters. That might not satisfy detractors of the sport, but it is to be noted and should be banned. But MMA is no more violent than many of the other contact sports out there and in MMA both parties know what they are getting into and what risks they are taking.

If we compare MMA to boxing, as many people do, it is a far safer sport. When a fighter is knocked down hard and doesn't intelligently defend themselves, referees quickly jump in to protect them. In boxing, fighters get standing eight counts and are allowed to keep fighting even when it's clear they have no clue where they are. Yes, as there are times when some MMA fighters are hit when they are almost out, but it's rare.

And MMA isn't always about fighting. Jiu-jitsu, one of the martial arts used by MMA fighters, is used to train children how to deal with bullies. It is not a martial art that advocates violence. In fact, martial arts is all about self-defense, getting people in shape and promoting self-esteem.

Unfortunately some people look past the positive aspects and only focus on the negative. And these people will never change their minds about the sport. We'll encourage people to go to a live MMA event and see it first-hand, it could just change their mind. Raging Wolf has an event coming up later this month and Davis will defend her title there. So, out there, buy a ticket, come see the event and help support a local fighter.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

I've been thinking about life and beyond

GORD ABRAHAM
Port Colborne Baptist

Join me in my thoughts. Sitting before my empty laptop screen. Empty except for the blinking cursor.

It is interesting to hear one's thoughts when away from the normal routines of life.

Returning. My laptop and I sit at the kitchen table in the home of long-time friends on Cape Breton Island.

The last few weeks away from home, revisiting friends — we pick up where we left off at last meeting a few years ago — places and many memories that were once a part of our lives when we lived here on this island that God crafted through wind and sea.

Re-smelling the salt in the air, standing on a rugged north east cliff facing an imaginary England off in the distance.

Thoughts of smallness as the blue North Atlantic waves crash up against the rocks below creating a froth of white and light as the blue churning sea only to be lost.

Contemplating. I celebrated my 59th birthday around this same table just a few days before this writing as my friend faced off with me. We as long-time friends laughed, sang, talked and

reconnected. Years that seemed so long ago and at the same time over so quickly now come back in our conversations.

Reminiscing. Time gone swiftly by, friends no longer here.

Thinking. Lately I have come to realize again the shortness of life — even at 59. How many more years to come? How many has God allocated for me in this small speck of life? What will I do with what is left? What will the after-life life be like?

Moses, the great writer of the early books of the Bible wrote in Psalm 90, "The length of our days is seventy years—or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away."

A second thought. If, as the Bible says, we are all eternal and will all exist after this life, then we have some serious thinking about where and what we will be after this life.

For anyone who rejects the life of faith and obedience to Jesus in this life, there is judgement and separation from all that is God and life and love and joy and peace.

"Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment," (Hebrews 9:27) The Christian who will live on without God but as what? and in what? and how?

Waiting. For the follower of Jesus Christ, life goes on after this life is over. Tom Wright has written that we will experience "life, after, life after death."

The author of Hebrews adds further, "so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him." (Hebrews 9:28)

Questions. What about you? Do you realize life is short? Life doesn't end at the end but goes on after passing through death. Where will you be? With Christ or separated from him?

Again it is Moses who asks of God, "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Psalm 90:12) Where do I go for this wisdom?

The place to start is with faith in the Lord Jesus Christ of whom Paul the Apostle says, "It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, it is by grace that you are in Christ Jesus, who by his blood has cleansed us from all unrighteousness." (1 Corinthians 1:30-31)

My thoughts turn to Jesus, who comes to reach out to us here—so I have written about life and beyond with Jesus.

readers' views

Better treatment deserved

It never ceases to amaze me how people treat each other. It's no wonder I prefer to be with animals than people.

The other day the guests at our cottage went down to the lake with their children to swim and play in the sand. Has anybody been down to the lake—there on Lake Erie in Wainfleet lately? Quite shocking with all the dead fish and smelly sludge, not to mention all the litter.

Will no longer be trying to keep the beach clean for our guests, since I cannot do it alone.

Litter I can handle, but not the dead fish. There is a serious problem with our lake, folks. The experts need to be called in to rectify what is wrong. I am seriously considering calling in a TV crew to film it.

In any event, our guests found a spot that was fairly clean and proceeded to make themselves comfortable, only to be told that they had to move since the beach was private.

Private? A beach? Not only were they told to move, but were threatened with the police in front of the children, too, if they didn't move. A neighbour said they could use "his beach" instead, which they did. So thanks to him. These tourists paid good money to come here and deserve better treatment.

Pat Cusack
Wainfleet

Keep the parking

I, for one, am in favour of progress and I believe everyone here in Port feels the same way.

However, I take exception with the idea of no parking on Main Street in Old Wainfleet after the reconstruction of new sidewalks and paving. Restoring a historical part of a town is one thing.

Changing the entire concept changes the meaning of "restoration."

The city's engineer should know without hedging whether we would lose part of the grant should we just use parking on Main St., rather than guests at it.

All it takes is an e-mail or phone call to the appropriate people and then you would know.

It sounds to me like no parking is a minor thing to the appropriate government. However, it is important to us who pay the taxes in the first place to demand what we want.

With many businesses having left Main St. over the years, putting ones on the fringe area to get new ones here is very important.

There are not too many businesses that appeal to those passing through like a department store and fancy hotel (only an example) that would catch their eye.

What we have here are for the locals. We need to reach out and do more. Taking away parking anywhere on Main St. simply "speeds up" the traffic to get out quicker.

Stop and think about what you are doing before implementing something as stupid as no parking on an important street.

Wm. R. Thompson
Port Colborne

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■ **INCREDIBLE PLACES:** Water, woods and serenity a perfect trinity

The magic of the Kawarthas is in the water

There are so many incredible places in this vast, amazing nation of ours where a person can go and soothe the soul.

We're blessed in Ontario — we have many of them.

A favourite of mine since childhood has been the region in central Ontario we call the Kawarthas.

It's not just the natural ruggedness of the rock outcroppings that dot the landscape. Nor is it just the splendor of the bountiful forests that make up most of the groundcover throughout the area.

While those are breathtakingly beautiful in their own right, it's the water — the lakes, rivers, bays, inlets — that is seemingly everywhere the eye turns. It's what gives the Kawarthas their lure.

The cry of the loon in the evening and the morning, the soft gentle lapping of lake water against a shore, the crystal clear blue of the lakes and waterways, all combine to make this a truly mystical place.

The Kawarthas stretch from Lindsay through Fenelon Falls, Bobcaygeon and across to Peterborough, covering everything in between and even beyond.

A favourite haunt is Buckhorn. This funky little village on the way to Peterborough from Bobcaygeon is home to one of the locks that make up the Trent-Severn Waterway, a 386-km boasting paradise that features 44 locks.

The Waterway, as it's known to locals begins at its southeastern point on the Bay of Quinte on eastern Lake Ontario and extends through central Ontario in



George Duma
BY GEORGE

a northwesterly direction to Port Severn where the Severn River flows into Georgian Bay.

But back to Buckhorn.



Apart from being a major Waterway component, it's also home to an offbeat little winery, the Kawartha Country Winery, as well as one of the largest retail art galleries in the country, Gallery on the Lake.

Now it seems hizarre to travel from Niagara and actually go to check-out a winery. I mean, why leave

home, right?

But what makes the Kawartha Country Winery unique is the abundance of fruit wines it produces on top of the traditional red and white grape wines available — everything from apricot, apple, blueberry, pear, peach, rhubarb and strawberry to plum, cranberry and spiced apple.

That was actually the premise when it opened six years ago, to make fruit wines using the orchard located on the property.

We've been going pretty much from the first month it opened. John Ruffa, the co-owner and vintner, is an extremely hospitable and gentle soul and very accommodating.

A visit to his wine-making facilities, tasting room and gift shop is like taking a giant step back in time. The facilities are housed in a restored log cabin built in 1866.

It actually still has the original square-hewn logs and pine floors.

see DUMA | A6

Supplied photo
Port Colborne artist Mary Langman is one of the featured artists at Gallery on the Lake just east of Buckhorn in the Kawarthas on the shores of Lower Buckhorn Lake. Mary was at the gallery last weekend for a meet-and-greet session with gallery patrons. She has a number of her works on display.

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Please be advised that Council for the Township of Wainfleet has rescheduled the Regular Meeting of Council for the month of August from August 17th to August 24th. The meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 19M43 Highway 3, Wainfleet. Any inquiries with respect to this matter should be directed to Mr. Scott Luey, Chief Administrative Officer at (905) 899-3463, extension 223.

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FROM PAGE A5

The cabin sits surrounded by 22 acres of apples, pears, several varieties of raspberries as well as rhubarb and grapes.

Nothing goes to waste here. Even the stately maple trees spread throughout the property earn their keep — John makes an incredible maple syrup ice wine.

Personal favourites? Certainly the cherry wine, it's amazing. But also the apricot, peach, pear, black currant and strawberry. Just not all at the same time.

Check out the website at www.kawarthacountrywinery.com.

About a 10-minute drive from the winery is Gallery on the Lake, located a short distance east of Buckhorn on the shores of Lower Buckhorn Lake. I couldn't imagine a more picturesque location for an art gallery.

Either Ingles, the president/curator of the gallery, is a no-nonsense type of businessman who doesn't miss a thing. She's cordial and a wonderful host but she is also always aware of everything that's going on around her. It's like she was born to run an art gallery.

As Esther writes on the gallery's website, "the



The Trent-Severn Waterway lock in Buckhorn is one of 44 that make up the inland route.

Peterborough/Kawarthas region is home to many of North America's pre-eminent artists. The Gallery on the Lake, with its distinctive octagon shaped cedar-clad structure, is their showplace."

Indeed, it is. The large and prestigious facility is in a gorgeous setting, surrounded by pine trees as it lies along the shore, built atop and adjacent to rock outcrops. The gallery houses a wide selection of originals, prints, sculptures and unique collectibles.

Just last weekend, Esther hosted a Meet The Artists event that we unfortunately missed as we had to leave before the

event took place. However, Port's own Mary Lampman was on her way there as one of the guest artists. Her work is on prominent display in the gallery as one of the featured artists.

Check out the website at www.galleryonthelake.com. I'm only scratching the surface of all that Buckhorn and the Kawarthas have to offer. But these are two of our favourite places to visit each time we go back.

I lived in Lindsay for a couple of years back in the early '80s and before that, my family used to vacation in the Kawarthas when I was young growing up in Toronto and

later in Mississauga. I have always felt a very special bond to the place.

If you're looking for a relatively close getaway, where the air is clean and the pace unhurried, where silence is serene, where the stars fire up the sky at night, go to the Kawarthas.

There's magic in the air.

George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He is currently a member of the Journalism faculty at Niagara College. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at gduma@cojoco.ca.



GEORGE DUMA InPort News Photo

John Rufa, the co-owner and vintner at Kawartha Country Winery, explains the nuances of making wine from fruit to a visitor.



GEORGE DUMA InPort News Photo

Looking like something out of Little House on the Prairie, the Kawartha Country Winery houses all its facilities: wine-making, tasting room and gift shop in this restored log cabin, built in 1866. It still has the original square-hewn logs and pine floors.

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■ **ROTARY:** Port girl spent a year in Austria

Austria remains in her heart

InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Robyn Damude is home again from her year-long journey, but Austria remains in her heart.

The 19-year-old Port Colborne woman fell in love with the central European nation during her Rotary exchange trip, which she returned from earlier this summer.

She learned to speak German, climbed a mountain, cheered for a local soccer team, skied on the Austrian Alps and walked by Adolf Hitler's house. The experience will be everlasting for the former student at Port Colborne High School.

"It was the best 10 months and 10 days of my life," Damude said during a presentation to the Rotary Club in Welland recently. "It was a great trip."

For the majority of her exchange, Damude stayed in Linz, the third largest city in the country with a population of about 189,000 people. In the early stages of her venture, Damude spent two weeks at a language camp with 43 other exchange students.

The students studied for six hours a day and were forced to undergo testing every single day of the camp, she explained.

Then they went to their host families.

The highlight of her trip was going on a European tour, which was two-and-a-half weeks long with stops in eight countries.

"I will never forget it," she said.

Before leaving Austria, her classmates bought her a traditional dress that she wore on Tuesday during her presentation to Rotary.

"I miss them a lot," she admitted.

Damude, whose older brother Tory travelled to



“It was the best 10 months and 10 days of my life. It was a great trip.”

Robyn Damude

JOHN VESSYANO Staff Photo
Port Colborne's Robyn Damude, wearing a traditional Austrian dress and holding a scarf of a local football team, recently returned from a one-year Rotary exchange trip to Austria.

Japan on a similar trip a few years ago, thanked the Rotary club members for giving her the opportunity to travel to Europe and experience a different culture.

She said her trip has made her more outgoing and independent, and returning home to Canada took time getting used to.

"It was really weird going

back," she said. "Now I've pretty much adjusted. I'm settling now."

Damude, who has been bitten by the travel bug, won't stay in Niagara for too long.

She's yet again packing her suitcase for an educational trip down the highway to Sudbury to study anthropology at Laurentian University.

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Sleep

One of the most common complaints from patients involves lack of sleep. Some patients complain about not being able to fall asleep, for others it is early wakening. The problem is definitely more prevalent in the elderly. As people age, their bodies simply require less sleep. First steps for most patients is to try some nondrug therapy and preventive measures.

Patients should first try to resolve other conditions that may be interfering with their sleep. Restless legs, pain, COPD and depression, can all play a role in limiting sleep. Talk to your doctor if one of these issues is causing sleeplessness. Certain drugs can also cause insomnia such as antidepressants, decongestants and steroids. If you are on one of these types of medications try taking it as early in the day as possible.

Good sleep hygiene is also indicated. This means forming good sleep habits. Use your bedroom only for sleep. Participate in a calming activity before bed such as reading or taking a bath. Limit the amount of TV you watch before bed. If you lie awake in bed for more than a half hour get up and try a different activity until you feel sleepy. Limit your caffeine intake and try to get in some moderate exercise every day. Some people suggest always getting up at the same time every day (no sleeping in).

If these measures fall there are some medications that can help. The benefits of sleep medications are modest and they can cause mental impairment and falls. They should be taken with caution.

A good first choice is a medication called Imovane or zolpidone. This medication does not cause as much dependency, rebound insomnia, or hangover. Zolpidone is probably the next best choice for insomnia. The main benefit of this medication is that it seems to be not habit forming.

Another option that is often used is a group of medications called benzodiazepines. An example would be Alivan, or oxazepam. Unfortunately these drugs often cause falls, dependency, and cognitive impairment.

Femeron is a sedating antidepressant that is commonly used for chronic insomnia. Doctors are also using antipsychotics like Serquel as an off label use for insomnia. There is still a need for more studies into the safety and efficacy of this drug for this indication.

Some natural medicines can also be tried for insomnia. Melatonin levels decrease with age and some people use this supplement to help fall asleep faster. Other natural remedies include valerian and St. John's wort. It is probably best to speak to your doctor or pharmacist about the safety of these medications, dosing, and drug interactions.

One of the keys to dealing with sleeplessness is to not let it cause uncontrolled anxiety. If it is a persistent problem for you, speak to your doctor or pharmacist about the best method for you to treat the problem.

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■ BARBECUE FUNDRAISER

JOHN VESSIOIAN
Staff Photo

The United Way of South Niagara held a charity barbecue Saturday morning at the Sobey's grocery store in Port Colborne front row, from left, Ad Lewis, United Way administrative assistant; United Way volunteer Savannah Prokopetz, Gemma Whiteside, campaign administrator; back row, summer student Derek Gaudet, Sobey's store manager Terry Ladouceur and volunteer Bob Lewis. The United Way is having another barbecue next Saturday between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Sobey's in Pelham.

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IMPORT NEWS

■ MESSAGE: Outreach program to children

Sharing the gospel with children at camp

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Last week, Central United Church was filled with little feet scurrying throughout the hallways from to make their way to different activities.

More than 40 students attended the church's vacation bible school during the week — learning lessons from the bible, participating in games and doing crafts.

It was Port Colborne's only vacation bible school held during the month of August, and was only one of three in the area this summer.

Heather Filson, Central United's designated lay minister said the church was lucky to have a number of adult and teenage volunteers so the program could be run and accommodate its 44 children from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The week of activities was free and open to parishioners and any child in junior kindergarten to Grade 6. Those who attended last year also received an invitation to return.

Children took part in crafts, games, snacks, bible stories and made videos daily to illustrate the lessons they learned.

On Wednesday, they delved into the bible story where Peter trusted Jesus to walk on water. As long as Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, he would continue to walk on water, but when he looked away, he started to sink.

They had food experiments and games surrounding the theme, including one where children had to run across "water" two air mattresses covered with a blue tarp.

"The message is Jesus gives us the power to be brave," Filson said.

"It's a great outreach program and

a great way for kids to spend one week of their summer."

Participant Amanda Pattison attends Central United Church and was helping other campers at

the VBS.

"I've never been to a camp as good as this," she said. "Ever ybody from church can come together and work together."

She attended two years ago and plans on returning next year as a volunteer crew leader.

The school is a popular program at the Port Church.



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Jessamyn Tweedy 'walks on water' — an air mattress covered with a blue tarp — at the Central United vacation bible school on Wednesday. More than 40 children took part in the free week-long camp.

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■ ELECTION: Watts seeks Wainfleet seat

Taking a run at township council

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Unhappy with the decisions being made by township council, Andrew Watts has decided to take action.

The Wainfleet resident filed his papers for the aldermanic race. It's the 68-year-old's first attempt at politics, but he said he can't sit back anymore and watch the "wrong people who are making the wrong decision."

He's been publicly opinionated and opposed to the proposed lakeshore water and sewer servicing project, didn't agree with the sale of the Lakewood Camp property and believes "wind farms are a potential disaster and are not being investigated."

He believes with advancing technology, the multimillion-dollar water and sewer pipeline can be avoided.

Watts regularly attends Wainfleet council meetings and has also attended regional council meetings to be an informed resident.

"I think ordinary people need to stand up," he said, noting he's never had political aspirations, but believes he had to run to make a difference on council.

"Council meetings are run the wrong way. Not only in

Wainfleet, it's all over," he said. "Decisions are made based on policies and procedures, it doesn't seem to be done for the people who elected them."

Watts has three sons, five grandchildren and is married to Alicia. He is a member of the Wainfleet Rotopagers Association and is a unit leader with the Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue Unit (POCOMAR) which is affiliated with the Canadian Coast Guard.



Andrew Watts

Watts was born in the United Kingdom and grew up near Liverpool. He worked on the Manchester ship canal, was a professional seaman, served in the navy and met Alicia while stationed in Oman. He was also a dive instructor and dive master in the Caribbean. In 2001, Watts moved to Canada and settled in Wainfleet.

He is the fifth person to file for alderman. He joins Eugene Canby, Betty Kane, Ron Kramer and David Wyatt fighting for four openings.

kforand@wellandtribune.ca

■ SUMMER FUN



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Liesl Dietrich, 9, enjoys an afternoon at the splash pad at H.H. Knoll Lakeside Park, Wednesday, to cool off with her brother. The children are from Williamsville, N.Y., but spend the summer in Lorraine Bay.

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■ **JOB:** One hundred young adults helped



Corey Chamberlain, Sara Wikston and Kelsi Wikston accept certificates of participation from youth services officer Melissa Gallina, far right, during a reception at the Port Colborne Service Canada Centre for Youth. The centre held a reception Wednesday to celebrate its successful summer season.

Centre helped students

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Job hunting can be intimidating for anyone, especially those taking on the search for the very first time.

The Port Colborne Service Canada Centre for Youth has helped more than 100 young adults this summer on their path towards employment.

The centre offers assistance with job searches, resume and cover letter writing, interview techniques and information on employment standards, health and safety in the workplace and wage rates.

The office at 176 Catharine St. will close its doors for the season on Friday, Aug. 27. A reception was held last Wednesday to celebrate the summer's

accomplishments.

Youth services officer Melissa Gallina said this season was "extremely successful" for the centre, not only in assisting youth to find jobs, but also in raising awareness of the centre and its community services.

The McMaster University student contacted more than 300 employers and handed out service information to more than 500 people at the farmer's market and local high schools.

Sara Wikston was pleased to learn about the centre when Gallina set up an information booth at Port Colborne High School.

Joining the "Odd Job Squad," she was able to help out at a lemonade stand during Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival.

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■ **ISSUES:** Barrick raise issue of LHINS

Port Colborne, Welland city councillors attend AMO conference

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Two local city councillors made their way to Windsor for the 2010 Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference.

Welland Ward 3 Coun. Paul Grenier and Port Colborne Ward 1 Coun. David Barrick were among 1,400 attendees at the conference which ran Aug. 16 to 18 at Caesars Windsor.

Barrick's focus was on LHINS and property assessments. He will continue to fight for increased health services in Port Colborne. He is vying for the regional councillor's position in the upcoming election and believes that an increased property assessment should not automatically translate to higher property taxes.

"I'm looking forward to

bringing Port Colborne's voice to ministers and opposition leaders from the provincial government," said Barrick before the conference. "It's a great opportunity to update them on our issues."

Grenier looked forward to hearing Dalton McGuinty speak on Monday because it's then that the premier typically makes an announcement.

Tuesday, Grenier chaired a session on the Ontario Power Authority's future and during the last day of the conference he was appointed chair of the Ontario Small Urban Municipalities committee — a position he was elected to in May. If he is re-elected in the Oct. 25 election, he will chair the committee for two years. He was also keen on learning how water technology will

be an economic cornerstone for Ontario's future, as previously indicated by AMO.

The annual AMO conference is Ontario's foremost educational forum for municipal government. This year's event features more than 60 plenary sessions and workshops. With a theme of propelling economic prosperity, the conference focuses on economic development and

other key municipal priorities, such as green energy, waste diversion, infrastructure and the delivery of health and social services.

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear keynote presentations by Jim Bradley, Sandra Pupatello, Tim Hudak, Andrea Horwath, Maclean's magazine editor Andrew Coyne and CBC News senior correspondent Diana Swain.



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■ **HIGHWAY:** Province says highway not needed

Niagara Region not giving up on a mid-peninsula highway

QMI Agency

THOROLD — Niagara politicians won't give up on the controversial mid-peninsula highway, despite a recent provincial study suggesting a new Fort Erie-to-Hamilton corridor is unnecessary.

For decades, local business leaders and politicians have called for a new four-lane alternative to the QEW that would connect Fort Erie to the Greater Toronto Area through the southern peninsula.

The previous Conservative provincial government announced its desire to build a \$1.3-billion highway in 2001, but the incoming provincial Liberals later insisted on a full environmental assessment of transportation options in the area, which started in 2007.

In June, a draft of that study suggested a new super-highway is unnecessary for at least the next 20 years and instead recommended expanding existing highways, rail service and public transit such as the GO train.



Peter Partington

That plan is "not good enough" for Niagara, said regional chair Peter Partington, who spoke out on the "disappointing" draft study during a recent council meeting.

"We need that highway corridor," Partington said, pointing to

a joint Niagara-Hamilton study completed in 2007 that claimed a new mid-lane highway would create as many as 170,000 new jobs and up to \$9 billion in new income for the two regions.

Partington wants regional councillors to meet in September to form a response to the Ministry of Transportation, which will accept comments on the draft report until the end of the year before issuing a final recommendation.

Partington said he feels the highway is a "vital" tool for economic growth and an important part of Niagara's "grow south" strategy.

But he also questioned the wisdom of recommended alternatives, such as expanding the QEW.

Will MacKenzie, a spokesman

for the MTO, said provincial planners feel a completely new highway isn't needed yet, particularly between Welland and Ancaster.

But he emphasized the study doesn't say the idea is dead forever.

"We think we should continue to monitor... things can change," he said.

For the time being, however, he said planners believe a combination of new rail options and targeted highway expansions should be able to meet demand.

Part of those recommended expansions, he added, include a section of the proposed mid-peninsula

highway: a four-lane connection between the QEW near Fort Erie and a widened Hwy. 406 near Welland.



Damian Goulbourne

Down the road, the province might also consider a new High Occupancy Vehicle lane between Burlington and Hwy. 406 in St. Catharines, he said, but further widening within the city is not in the cards.

Welland Mayor Damian Goulbourne said he's disappointed with the provincial study, but suggested it's still possible to "pull off a positive outcome for the region."

"I think we should reaffirm our support for (the highway) ... but I also think we need a good fallback position," he said. "I think if the province is going to walk away from the highway, then maybe that opens the door to a cost-sharing partnership on our east-west connection."

That portion of highway "is a good start" on the mid-peninsula corridor, Goulbourne argued, and would leave the door open on future expansions.

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■ **CITY COUNCIL:** Businesses make last ditch effort

Main St. business owners want to keep on-street parking

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Main St. business owners want their parking spots to stay put.

During a recent council meeting, Ward 2 Coun. Frank DiBartolomeo said the municipality received letters — 13 in total — from "virtu-

ally 100%" of the business owners on Main St. between King and Elm streets.

The letter writers objected to the removal of on-street parking as part of the Main St. revitalization project.

DiBartolomeo asked how council can justify filling the letters away and ignoring the residents' pleas.

Council's duty is to find

an "amicable compromise," which has yet to be done, he said.

Frank's Home Building Centre owner Frank Danch told council he was making his "last-ditch effort" to have the project plans changed.

"In the world today, people don't event want to get out of their cars," he said, adding that to remove convenient

parking spaces will be a detriment to local businesses.

Danch said he's "all in favour" of having a nicer looking street, just with some parking.

Even some of the busiest roads in Niagara, such as Lundy's Lane and Clifton Hill, have on-street parking, he added.

"No one on our block is

happy with this decision."

Dan Aquilina, director of planning and development, said three options were set before council regarding changes on Main St., and council chose to move forward with the option of eliminating on-street parking. Three municipal parking lots are being established to make up for the lost spaces,

and the city is leasing additional parking space from the owner of the Subway plaza, he said.

The city has successfully applied for funding from the federal government, gone to tender with the project and construction is underway, Aquilina added.

see **PARKING** | A19

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